

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS WILLIAM CARBO**DEFENDANTS FULTON FRIEDMAN & GULLACE, LLP****(b)** County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff PHILADELPHIA

(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant _____

(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE LAND INVOLVED.

(c) Attorney's (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number) Cary L. Flitter, Esq., and Theodore E. Lorenz, Esq., Flitter Lorenz, P.C., 450 N. Narberth Avenue, Suite 101, Narberth, PA 19072, (610) 822-0782

Attorneys (If Known)

II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- ☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff ☒ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)
- ☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant ☐ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)

- | | | | |
|--|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| PTF | DEF | PTF | DEF |
| Citizen of This State <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| Citizen of Another State <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 |
| Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Foreign Nation | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 |

IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

CONTRACT	TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES
<input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act <input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument <input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment <input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act <input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excl. Veterans) <input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholders' Suits <input type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contract <input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 196 Franchise	PERSONAL INJURY <input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane <input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander <input type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers' Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury PERSONAL INJURY <input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury - Med. Malpractice <input type="checkbox"/> 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability PERSONAL PROPERTY <input type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud <input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending <input type="checkbox"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage <input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 610 Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> 620 Other Food & Drug <input type="checkbox"/> 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 <input type="checkbox"/> 630 Liquor Laws <input type="checkbox"/> 640 R.R. & Truck <input type="checkbox"/> 650 Airline Regs. <input type="checkbox"/> 660 Occupational Safety/Health <input type="checkbox"/> 690 Other	<input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 <input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 PROPERTY RIGHTS <input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyrights <input type="checkbox"/> 830 Patent <input type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark SOCIAL SECURITY <input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395ff) <input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923) <input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) <input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI <input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g))	<input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment <input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust <input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks and Banking <input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation <input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 480 Consumer Credit <input type="checkbox"/> 490 Cable/Sat TV <input type="checkbox"/> 810 Selective Service <input type="checkbox"/> 850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange <input type="checkbox"/> 875 Customer Challenge 12 USC 3410 <input type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions <input type="checkbox"/> 891 Agricultural Acts <input type="checkbox"/> 892 Economic Stabilization Act <input type="checkbox"/> 893 Environmental Matters <input type="checkbox"/> 894 Energy Allocation Act <input type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Information Act <input type="checkbox"/> 900 Appeal of Fee Determination Under Equal Access to Justice <input type="checkbox"/> 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
REAL PROPERTY <input type="checkbox"/> 210 Land Condemnation <input type="checkbox"/> 220 Foreclosure <input type="checkbox"/> 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment <input type="checkbox"/> 240 Torts to Land <input type="checkbox"/> 245 Tort Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 290 All Other Real Property	CIVIL RIGHTS <input type="checkbox"/> 441 Voting <input type="checkbox"/> 442 Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 443 Housing/Accommodations <input type="checkbox"/> 444 Welfare <input type="checkbox"/> 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other <input type="checkbox"/> 440 Other Civil Rights	PRISONER PETITIONS <input type="checkbox"/> 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence Habeas Corpus: <input type="checkbox"/> 530 General <input type="checkbox"/> 535 Death Penalty <input type="checkbox"/> 540 Mandamus & Other <input type="checkbox"/> 550 Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 555 Prison Condition	<input type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act <input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor/Mgmt. Relations <input type="checkbox"/> 730 Labor/Mgmt. Reporting & Disclosure Act <input type="checkbox"/> 740 Railway Labor Act <input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation <input type="checkbox"/> 791 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act	FEDERAL TAX SUITS <input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) <input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609

V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- ☒ 1 Original Proceeding ☐ 2 Removed from State Court ☐ 3 Remanded from Appellate Court ☐ 4 Reinstated or Reopened ☐ 5 Transferred from another district (specify) ☐ 6 Multidistrict Litigation ☐ 7 Appeal to District Judge from Magistrate Judgment

VI. CAUSE OF ACTION

Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity):

Brief description of cause: FDCPA 15 USC § 1692

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:☐ CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER F.R.C.P. 23**DEMAND \$**CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint
JURY DEMAND: ☒ Yes ☐ No.**VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY**

(See instructions):

JUDGE

DOCKET NUMBER

DATE 7/25/12 SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD 

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT # _____ AMOUNT _____ APPLYING IFP _____ JUDGE _____ MAG. JUDGE _____

E-Mail Address

FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA — DESIGNATION FORM to be used by counsel to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of assignment to appropriate calendar.

Address of Plaintiff: 1211 Durfor Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148-3513

Address of Defendant: 28405 Van Dyke Avenue, Warren, MI 48090

Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction: 1211 Durfor Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148-3513

(Use Reverse Side For Additional Space)

Does this civil action involve a nongovernmental corporate party with any parent corporation and any publicly held corporation owning 10% or more of its stock?
(Attach two copies of the Disclosure Statement Form in accordance with Fed.R.Civ.P. 7.1(a)) Yes ☐ No ☒

Does this case involve multidistrict litigation possibilities? Yes ☐ No ☒

RELATED CASE, IF ANY:

Case Number: _____ Judge _____ Date Terminated: _____

Civil cases are deemed related when yes is answered to any of the following questions:

1. Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court?
Yes ☐ No ☒
2. Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court?
Yes ☐ No ☒
3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or any earlier numbered case pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court?
Yes ☐ No ☒

CIVIL: (Place ☒ in ONE CATEGORY ONLY)

A. Federal Question Cases:

1. ☐ Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts
2. ☐ FELA
3. ☐ Jones Act-Personal Injury
4. ☐ Antitrust
5. ☐ Patent
6. ☐ Labor-Management Relations
7. ☐ Civil Rights
8. ☐ Habeas Corpus
9. ☐ Securities Act(s) Cases
10. ☐ Social Security Review Cases
11. ☒ All other Federal Question Cases

(Please specify) FDCPA, 15 USC § 1692

B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases:

1. ☐ Insurance Contract and Other Contracts
2. ☐ Airplane Personal Injury
3. ☐ Assault, Defamation
4. ☐ Marine Personal Injury
5. ☐ Motor Vehicle Personal Injury
6. ☐ Other Personal Injury (Please specify)
7. ☐ Products Liability
8. ☐ Products Liability (Asbestos)
9. ☐ All other Diversity Cases

(Please specify)

ARBITRATION CERTIFICATION

(Check appropriate Category)

I, _____, counsel of record do hereby certify:

☐ Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, Section 3(c)(2), that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the damages recoverable in this civil action case exceed the sum of \$150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs;

☐ Relief other than monetary damages is sought

DATE: _____

Attorney-at-Law

Attorney I.D.

NOTE: A trial de novo will be a trial by jury only if there has been compliance with F.R.C.P. 38.

I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case is not related to any case now pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court except as noted above.

DATE: 7/25/12

CIV.609 (4/03)

Attorney-at-Law

Attorney I.D.

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

WILLIAM CARBO
1211 Durfor Street
Philadelphia, PA 19148-3513

Plaintiff,

vs.

FULTON FRIEDMAN & GULLACE, LLP
28405 Van Dyke Avenue
Warren, MI 48090

Defendant.

CIVIL ACTION NO.

COMPLAINT

I. INTRODUCTION

1. This is an action for damages brought by a consumer pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692 (“FDCPA”).

2. The FDCPA prohibits debt collectors from engaging in deceptive and unfair practices in the collection of a consumer debt.

3. Defendant is subject to strict liability for sending a collection letter which violates the provisions of the FDCPA.

II. JURISDICTION

4. Jurisdiction arises under 15 U.S.C. § 1692k, and 28 U.S.C. § 1337.

III. PARTIES

5. Plaintiff William J. Carbo (“Plaintiff”) is a consumer who resides in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania at the address captioned.

6. Defendant Fulton Friedman & Gullace LLP (“Fulton Friedman”) is a collection law firm with an office for the regular transaction of business at the address captioned.

7. Defendant regularly engages in the collection of consumer debts in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania using the mails and telephone.

8. Defendant regularly attempts to collect consumer debts alleged to be due another.

9. Defendant is a “debt collector” as that term is contemplated in the FDCPA, 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6).

IV. STATEMENT OF CLAIM

10. On August 3, 2011, Fulton Friedman sent Plaintiff a form collection letter in an attempt to collect a consumer debt alleged due its client. A copy of the August 3, 2011 letter is attached hereto as Exhibit A (redacted in part per Fed. R. Civ. 5.2).

11. The August 3, 2011 collection letter is on the letterhead of:

FULTON FRIEDMAN & GULLACE, LLP
Collections, Consulting & Litigation

12. The August 3, 2011 collection letter states in part:

“[Y]our unpaid account listed above has been referred to our office for collection. Disregard of this notice may result in the commencement of legal proceedings against you for collection of this debt. Note that if a lawsuit is commenced, the Court may assess additional charges for the court costs and other expenses of the lawsuit.”

13. The August 3, 2011 collection dun is signed by “Fulton Friedman & Gullace, LLP”.

14. The August 3, 2011 collection letter from Fulton Friedman represents or implies a level of attorney involvement in the sending of the collection letter. However, there was no such involvement.

15. In reality, and unbeknownst to the consumer, Fulton Friedman sends this form collection letter in its capacity as a debt collector only and not as a law firm acting like a real law firm should.

16. The sentence in the August 3, 2011 collection letter, “[A]t this time, no attorney with this firm has personally reviewed the particular circumstances of your account”, does not ameliorate the effect of the collection letter sent on attorney letterhead.

17. The FDCPA prohibits debt collectors from using any false, deceptive, or misleading representations or means in connection with the collection of any debt. 15 U.S.C. § 1692e.

COUNT I - FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT

18. Plaintiff repeats the allegations contained above as if the same were here set forth at length.

19. The acts by Defendant described above violated the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act by using false, deceptive, or misleading representations or means in connection with the collection of any debt, in violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1692e, § 1692e(3) and § 1692e(10).

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff William J. Carbo demands judgment against Defendant Fulton Friedman & Gullace, LLP, for:

- (a) Damages;
- (b) Attorney’s fees and costs; and
- (c) Such other and further relief as the Court shall deem just and proper.

V. **DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

Plaintiff demands a trial by jury as to all issues so triable.

Respectfully submitted:

Date: 7/25/12



CARY L. FLITTER
THEODORE E. LORENZ
ANDREW M. MILZ
Attorneys for Plaintiff

FLITTER LORENZ, P.C.
450 N. Narberth Avenue
Suite 101
Narberth, PA 19072
(610) 822-0781

EXHIBIT “A”

FULTON FRIEDMAN & GULLACE, LLP

COLLECTIONS, CONSULTING & LITIGATION

LICENSED IN ARIZONA, CALIFORNIA, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, MARYLAND, MICHIGAN, NEW YORK, PENNSYLVANIA, TENNESSEE & TEXAS

PO Box 2123
WARREN, MI 48090-2123

TOLL FREE 877-496-4802
EXT. 0

August 3, 2011

Re: Asset Acceptance, LLC Assignee of WACHOVIA CARD SERVICES
Original Creditor Acct #: XXXXXXXXXXXX2932
Fulton, Friedman & Gullace, LLP Acct #: 11-17[REDACTED]
Balance Due: \$[REDACTED]

Dear William J Carbo:

Your unpaid account listed above has been referred to our office for collection. Disregard of this notice may result in the commencement of legal proceedings against you for collection of this debt. Note that if a lawsuit is commenced, the Court may assess additional charges for the court costs and other expenses of the lawsuit.

At this time, no attorney with this firm has personally reviewed the particular circumstances of your account.

Unless you notify this office within 30 days after receiving this notice that you dispute the validity of this claim or any portion thereof, this office will assume this debt to be valid. If you notify this office in writing within 30 days from receiving this notice that you dispute the validity of this debt or any portion thereof, this office will obtain verification of the debt or obtain a copy of a judgment and mail you a copy of such judgment or verification. If you request of this office in writing within 30 days after receiving this notice this office will provide you with the name and address of the original creditor, if different from the current creditor.

This is an attempt to collect a debt by a debt collector. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Very truly yours,

Dave Smith
Collections Team (Non-Attorney)
Phone: 877-496-4802 Ext. 0
Fulton, Friedman & Gullace, LLP

Detach Lower Portion and Return with Payment

CCGASSE02_OS_0100



PO Box 2124
Warren MI 48090-2124

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Fulton, Friedman & Gullace, LLP Acct #: 11-17[REDACTED]
Balance Due: \$[REDACTED]

August 3, 2011

Fulton, Friedman & Gullace, LLP
PO Box 2123
Warren MI 48090-2123

11-17764-OS_0100 597257911



William J Carbo
1211 Durfor St
Philadelphia PA 19148-3513